

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 11590 251753Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSM-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /060 W
-----050817 251959Z /75

R 251743Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8399
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L.) PDEV PBOR EG XF
SUBJECT: PRESS ON KAMEL-ATHERTON MEETING

SUMMARY. PRESS APRIL 25 PROMINENTLY COVERS ATHERTON'S
MEETING WITH FORMIN KAMEL, HIGHLIGHTING KAMEL'S STATE-
MENT THAT THERE NO CHANGE IN ISRAELI POSITION AND
THAT ISRAEL'S INTERPRETATION OF 242 UNACCEPTABLE.
AHRAM EDITORIAL AGREES ISRAEL HAS OFFERED NOTHING NEW,
AND ONLY PLAYING ON WORDS. ISRAEL REFUSES MAKE COMMIT-
MENT TO WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK AND GAZA. GUMHURIYYA
CRITICIZES SHARON'S "INVERTED LOGIC"IN CALLING EGYPT
"INTRANSIGENT". END SUMMARY.

1. KAMEL STATEMENT. ACCORDING PRESS, FORMIN DECLARED
AT END OF TALKS WITH ATHERTON:
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-- ISRAEL'S POSITION. GOE HAS NOT PERCEIVED ANY CHANGE,
ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO 242. (GUMHURIYYA ACCOUNT
HAS KAMEL SAYING THAT SOMETHING MIGHT APPEAR AFTER
DAYAN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.) ISRAELI INTERPRETATION
OF 242 "CATEGORICALLY UNACCEPTABLE", AS IS SETTLEMENTS
POLICY. ISRAEL'S STATEMENT THAT PROVISIONS OF 242

CONSTITUTE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATION COMPLETELY CHANGES SITUATION BECAUSE 242 AN "EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION" AND MUST BE APPLIED TO ALL FRONTS: SINAI, GOLAN, GAZA AND WEST BANK. (GUMHURIYYA ACCOUNT HAS KAMEL SAYING EGYPT INFORMED U.S. AN ISRAELI RETREAT FROM ITS "STATIC STANCE" WILL OPEN WAY FOR PROGRESS.)

-- KAMEL TO U.S. HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON HAS BEEN AGREED ON IN PRINCIPLE, BUT NO DATE FIXED. IT CONTINGENT UPON CHANGE IN ISRAELI POSITION OR IF RECURRING CONTACTS WOULD BE USEFUL.

-- EGYPT'S STAND. EGYPTIAN FORMULA HAS NOT CHANGED ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. (AKHBAR HAS KAMEL SAYING EGYPT HAS SUBMITTED NO NEW FORMULA IN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BECAUSE EGYPT'S STAND IS KNOWN AND CONSTANT; NAMELY, TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND RECOGNITION OF LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS.)

2. ATHERTON REMARKS. PRESS REPORTED ATHERTON EXPRESSED THANKS TO SADAT FOR SUCCESSFUL MEETING, DESCRIBING TALKS AS "DETAILED AND SERIOUS" WHICH GAVE U.S. CLEAR IDEA OF EGYPTIAN POSITIONS. ASKED ABOUT NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS SUPPOSEDLY BEING STUDIED, ATHERTON REPLIED. THAT HE DID NOT RECEIVE ANY NEW PROPOSALS. KAMEL TRIP TO WASHINGTON COULD BE IMPORTANT TO U.S.-GOE DIALOGUE, UNCLASSIFIED

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BUT NO ARRANGEMENTS MADE SO FAR.

3. COMMENTARY. AHRAM ECHOES KAMEL'S REMARK THAT ISRAEL HAS OFFERED NOTHING NEW BUT ONLY "PLAYING ON WORDS". THERE NO REFERENCE IN ISRAELI POSITION TO COMMITMENT TO WITHDRAW FROM WEST BANK AND GAZA IN RETURN FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL SOVEREIGNTY. ISRAEL SAYS IT READY TO NEGOTIATE BUT REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE WITH LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES. DAYAN AND BEGIN WILL TRY TO DECEIVE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION THAT THERE IS SOMETHING NEW OUT OF ISRAEL. IN SAME VEIN, GUMHURIYYA CRITICIZES SHARON FOR CHARGING EGYPT INTRANSIGENT BECAUSE OF HER CRITICISM OF SETTLEMENTS, EVEN WHEN WORK ON THEM HAS STOPPED. THIS "INVERTED LOGIC", EDITORIAL CHARGES. QUESTION FOR EGYPT IS NOT WHETHER ISRAEL HAS STOPPED WORK ON SETTLEMENTS BUT ISRAEL'S COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES A POINT NOT SUBJECT TO ANY BARGAINING. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO11590
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780177-0150
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780421/aaaaarkl.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 081549a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2863365
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ON KAMEL-ATHERTON MEETING SUMMARY. PRESS APRIL 25 PROMINENTLY COVERS ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH FORMIN KAMEL, HIGHLIGHTING KAMEL'S ST
TAGS: OVIP, PDEV, PBOR, EG, XF, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L), (KAMEL, MOHAMMED IBRAHIM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/081549a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014